Agricultural Items Permitted for Exports

755. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleasqd to state:

(a) what are the various agricultural items that have been permitted;

(b) whether any quotas for export such items has been fixed for the year and if so, what is the amount of foreign exchange in each case is likely to be earned; and

(c) what are the names of the low value agricultural items listed to be imported indicating the quantity, comparative export and import price of the concerned items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Major agricultural items being exported and the targets fixed for them in value terms for the year 1992-93 are as under:

Sl. No.	Item	Target 92-93 US$ million
1.	Rice	275
2.	Tobacco	175
3.	Spices	165
4.	Cashewnuts	300
5.	Oil meals and oil seeds	500
6.	Sugar	550
7.	Fresh fruits, vegetables	425

(c) No such list has been prepared. However, the Government's over-all policy is to consider imports of items of mass consumption, as and when there are difficulties on supply or price front and having regard to the interests of both the producers and the consumers.

Export of Spices

756. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of countries rejected our import consignments of spices on the plea of contamination during the year 1992-93; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Government has information about only *one* case of rejection of a consignment of 500 bags of Black Pepper of 25 Kgs. each (Invoice value US $24250/- claim value USS 45351/-) to USA in 1992-93. This was rejected on the ground of presence of mammalian excreta.

Effect of Recession in Tea Industry

757. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recession hit tea Industry is launching a massive exercise for pushing of tea exports to the hard currency areas;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps are being taken by Government to achieve the fixed targets; and

(c) what is the extent up to which the break-up of erstwhile USSR has resulted in the losses to India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKERJEE): (a) to (c) In view of the collapse of the erstwhile USSR the tea industry is launching an intensive campaign during 1993 to diversify our markets. Buyer-seller meets and participation in various fairs etc. are being taken up. Government is rendering assistance to the tea industry in its promotional efforts through the Tea Board of India.